

SNAP (FOOD STAMPS) AT FARMERS' MARKETS

Food Pantry Nutrition Project
Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security

General Information about SNAP (Food Stamp Program)

- SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It is the largest federally funded nutrition assistance program and is administered by the states.
- People qualify based on income and personal assets.
- A household's gross income must be less than 130% of poverty level.
 - For a family of 3 = gross income under \$2000/month. They may only have up to \$2000 in assets.
- The average monthly benefit per person in MO in 2011 was \$127.05.
- Roughly 950,000 people in MO receive benefits. Equal to 1 on 6 Missourians.
- Roughly 46 million people (1 in 7 people) participate in the US.
- \$71.8 billion in benefits were redeemed in 2011. 55% increase from 2010.



SNAP/EBT at Farmers' Markets

- In 2011, 2445 farmers' markets and direct market farmers were authorized to accept SNAP in U.S.
- 77 were authorized in Missouri.
- For the same time period, \$11,725,316 in benefits were redeemed at farmers' markets in the U.S. There was a \$4 million increase from 2010 = 120% increase.
- \$1,150,957 in benefits were redeemed at FMs in MO = 6.8% increase from 2010.
- MO is one of four states with \$1 million plus in redemptions.
- In the U.S. only .016% of SNAP benefits are redeemed at FMs.
- In Missouri, .08% of SNAP benefits are redeemed at FMs.

Local Examples (Missouri)

- Webb City:
 - \$1,325 in EBT/SNAP sales in 2008 → \$10,530 in 2011.
 - \$8,493 in debit/credit sales in 2008 → \$17,813 in 2011.
- Columbia:
 - Before 2009, EBT/SNAP sales average \$400/month during busy season.
 - With radio ads and signage, sales were \$400/Saturday.

- Matching program in 2011: 55 families offered \$25/week in matching funds. 25 families participated spending \$2,425 in matching funds, \$4,900 in total.
- City Market (KC):
 - EBT/SNAP: \$6,730 in 2009 → \$57,638 in 2010 → \$106,331 in 2011.
 - Matching funds account for between 40% and 50% of sales in 2010-11.
 - Debit: \$2,388 in 2010; \$5,110 in 2011
 - Cost in 2011: \$1,278.75 for fees + \$906.73 for supplies + \$7,465 for staff/labor = \$8,810.48.

Key Contacts

- For completing and submitting an application
 - Go online to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/fm.htm> to learn about qualifications and begin an online application.
 - To speak to a person at the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Field Offices in Missouri, call 816-590-3290. A listing of field offices nationwide can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/Contacts/fieldoffices/>.



Resources

- *SNAP/EBT at your Farmers Market: Seven Steps to Success*, Project for Public Spaces, <http://www.pps.org/store/books/snapebt-at-your-farmers-market-seven-steps-to-success/>
- *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at Farmers Markets: A How-To Handbook*, USDA Ag Marketing Service and Food and Nutrition Service, Project for Public Spaces, <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRDC5085298>